

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A skeleton structural member for use in a transport machine, comprising:

a hollow skeleton member; and

multiple granules packed inside a chamber partially bounded by

(i) the hollow skeleton member and/or a space bounded by or

(ii) the hollow skeleton member and a panel member peripheral to the hollow skeleton member;

wherein the multiple granules are contained in a pressurized closed space bounded at least in part by ~~an~~ at least one expanded partition wall member provided inside the ~~skeleton member and/or space~~ chamber, the expanded partition wall member forming a partition within the chamber between the pressurized closed space containing the plurality of granules and a space section within the chamber wherein no granules are present.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The skeleton structural member according to claim 1, wherein the expanded partition wall member is formed of a material that expands more quickly upon exposure to heat than the multiple granules expand.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The skeleton structural member according to claim 1, wherein the partition wall member is made of a foaming resin material.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method for manufacturing a skeleton structural member to be used in a transport machine, said skeleton structural member having multiple granules packed inside a chamber partially bounded by (i) a hollow skeleton member or (ii) and/or a space bounded by a the hollow skeleton member and a panel member peripheral thereto, wherein the multiple granules are contained in a pressurized closed space bounded at least in part by ~~an~~ at least one expanded partition wall member provided inside ~~the skeleton member and/or space chamber~~, the expanded partition wall member forming a partition within the chamber between the pressurized closed space containing the plurality of granules and a space section within the chamber wherein no granules are present, the manufacturing method comprising the steps of:

disposing a plurality of partition wall forming members apart from each other inside a vessel or a bag;

placing the multiple granules between the plurality of partition wall forming members inside the vessel or the bag;

disposing the vessel or the bag containing the plurality of partition wall forming members and multiple granules inside ~~the skeleton member and/or space chamber~~; and

heating the skeleton member with the vessel or the bag containing the plurality of partition wall forming members and multiple granules disposed inside the ~~skeleton member and/or space~~ chamber.